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# The Hartford News

May 6 – 12, 2021



## STATE LEADING, BUT HARTFORD LAGGING IN RACE TO VACCINATE

BY ANDY HART

On Monday, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to fully vaccinate over half of its adult residents against COVID-19. Overall, as of May 4, 68.6% of Connecticut adults have received at least one vaccine dose, fourth among all states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But Hartford's vaccination rate is far below the state average. As of May 1, according to the *Hartford Courant*, only 31% of city residents had received at least one dose of the vaccine, the 168th lowest rate among Connecticut's 169 towns.

Increasing the city's vaccination rate is crucial to achieving "herd immunity," the point at which the percentage of people who are immune to COVID-19 through vaccination or having contracted the disease and built up resistance to it, has risen to a point at which the virus can no longer find host organisms and therefore stops spreading.

However, authorities differ on how much of the population needs to be immune to COVID-19 in order to achieve "herd immunity." Some say 70% while others put the figure as high as 85%.

The good news is that it's easier now than ever to get your vaccination. Hartford HealthCare and Trinity Health Of New England, are holding walk-up, no appointment vaccine clinics every single day in Hartford. Please see below for hours and times at these locations.

### Monday

**Parker Memorial Community Center**, 2621 Main Street, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM; **Convention Center**, 100 Columbus Boulevard, 9 AM – 4 PM; **Xfinity Theatre**, 61 Savitt Way, 9 AM – 4 PM

### Tuesday

**Parker Memorial Community Center**, 2621 Main Street, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM; **Convention Center**, 100 Columbus Boulevard, 11:30 AM – 6:30 PM; **Xfinity Theatre**, 61 Savitt Way, 11:30 AM – 6:30 PM

### Wednesday

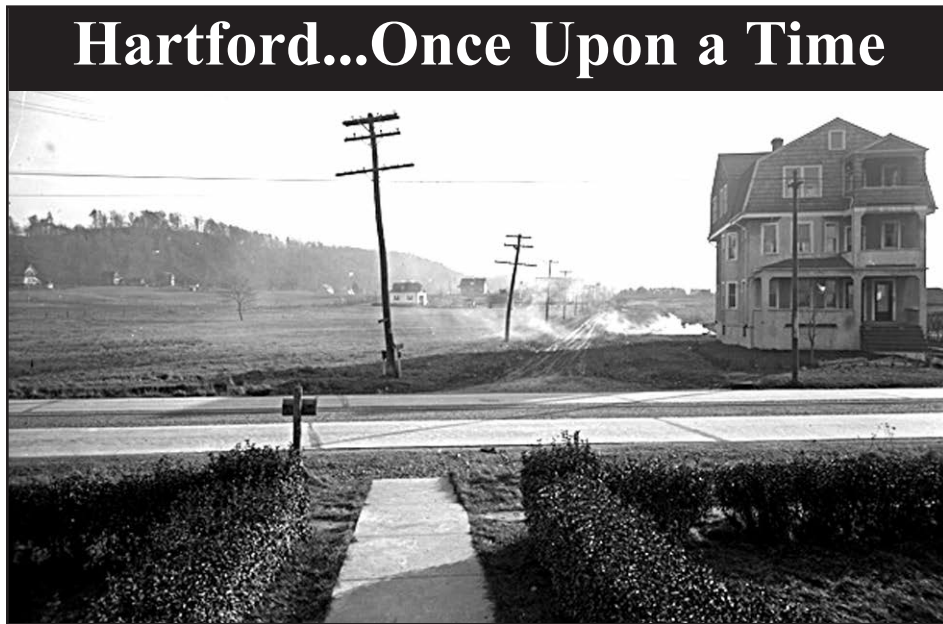
**Parker Memorial Community Center**, 2621 Main Street, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM; **Convention Center**, 100 Columbus

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## Colt Park Field Named After Hartford Baseball Legend

On Wednesday, April 28, Colt Park's Field #9 was officially renamed Johnny Taylor Field after a man who was probably the best baseball player Hartford ever produced. Taylor's daughter, Lynne Taylor-Grande, and grandson, Robert Grande, cut the ribbon to officially open the field. Robert (above, right) threw out the first pitch and afterward gave fist-bumps to the Bulkeley High team, who played the first game at the renamed field immediately after the ceremony. Johnny "Schoolboy" Taylor joined the Bulkeley High baseball team in his senior year at the school in 1933 and almost immediately became a sensation. He led the team to a state championship, struck out 19 batters in one game and 25 in another and had a .428 batting average. The New York Yankees were interested in the pitching phenom, until they found out he was black. Taylor instead became a star in the Negro League from 1935 to 1945, throwing eight no-hitters. After Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947, Taylor came out of retirement to play in his native city for the Hartford Chiefs for a few seasons. He passed away in 1987 and is a member of the Twilight Baseball League Hall of Fame and the Bulkeley High School Hall of Fame. (Hart photo)



This photo from the Hartford Public Library's Hartford History Center shows a rather lonely-looking house on Grant Avenue (now Grant Street) in the city's Southwest neighborhood. In the background is the ridge on which the Avery Heights Senior Living Complex now stands. On the other side of the ridge is Cedar Hill Cemetery. The Southwest was one of the last neighborhoods to be fully developed in Hartford, along with Blue Hills. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Block Parties Continue at Goodwin Saturday

The City of Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation will host Block Parties from 12-2 pm on for the next three Saturdays: Saturday, May 8: Goodwin Park Pond House, (located off Hubbard Road); Saturday, May 15: Keney Park Playground, 383 Edgewood St.; Saturday, May 22: Grand Re-Opening! of Metzner Rec. Center & Early Learning Center, 680 Franklin Ave. The events will feature arts & crafts, games, inflatables, raffles, food, community partners and giveaways.

### Free Shred Day May 8

Dispose of any unwanted personal documents safely and securely on Saturday, May 8, from 8 am - 12 pm at 2775 Main Street, Hartford. The event is sponsored by Cencap Federal Credit Union. Please bring your shreddable items in labeled boxes or bags in the trunk of your car. No need to exit your vehicle! All Cencap staff will follow CDC guidelines for safe social distancing and will wear masks.

### Urban League Career Fair May 12

The Urban League of Greater Hartford will host its 21st annual Employment Empowerment Expo and Career Fair from 12-3 pm on Wednesday, May 12. The fair will be held both in-person at the Swift Factory, 10 Love Lane, Hartford; and online at: <https://bit.ly/ulgh2021careerfair>. In addition to companies seeking employees (and possible on-site hiring), the event will include workshops and networking. The career fair is being co-hosted by several community organizations, including the United Way, Sentry Foundation, Hartford Police Department, Hartford Fire Department and the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services.

### MARG Meets May 13

The Maple Avenue Revitalization Group

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## Maple Ave. Clean-up

On Saturday, May 1, the Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) held its annual clean-up of the Barry Square neighborhood. The large turn-out for the event was thanks to local residents, MARG Board members, the Hartford Fire Department, Hartford Police Department, City of Hartford Office of Constituent Services, Hartford Youth Corps and the University of Hartford. Refreshments before and after the event were supplied by the fire department. (Hart photo)

## Four Hartford Parks Crowdfunding for Improvements

BY DONNA SWARR

In collaboration with the Connecticut Valley Garden Club (CVGC) and SustainableCT to raise funds for beautification and improvements, four Hartford parks—Bushnell, Colt, Keney, and Riverfront Recapture’s Charter Oak Landing—launched Park Challenge 2021 on May 1, 2021 with a two-month crowdfunding campaign. Throughout the pandemic, our parks have provided soothing, enriching, safe public spaces. Parks across the country are enjoying a marked rise in visitors. However, increased usage requires increased funding. Our parks cannot meet the expectations of their visitors without help. Barbara Keifer of the Garden Club explained that “Each park has identified specific needs and if fundraising is successful, will receive matching grants of up to \$7,500 through SustainableCT, a privately funded grant organization that prioritizes public efforts to improve the environment.” The park projects include new trees (Bushnell); picnic tables, benches and plantings (Colt); a wildflower meadow (Keney); and a new bed of day lilies to replace invasive weeds (Riverfront-Charter Oak Landing).

The needs of our parks are many. “ More than 165 years ago the citizens of Hartford joined together to create, what became, one of the finest park systems in America. We want to reach the many thousands who have enjoyed our parks throughout the pandemic and encourage them to support our parks again.” said Beth Montgelas, a former Garden Club president. Connecticut Valley Garden Club has a long history of support for parks and gardens including Sunset Overlook and the Heritage Rose Garden in Elizabeth Park, planters for Riverside Recapture, the topiary garden at Children’s Medical Center and many more.

Detailed information and donation options may be made by visiting the park campaign sites:

- Bushnell Park – Patronicity.com/BushnellPark
- Colt Park – Patronicity.com/ColtPark
- Keney Park – Patronicity.com/KeneyPark
- Riverfront Recapture, Charter Oak Landing – Patronicity.com/Riverfront

## Keney Park Urban Ecology Wellness Center

*A new collaborative brings new programming*

BY DONNA SWARR

Over the past two months I’ve written about the Keney Trails and its Forestry Plan, but now there’s even more going at the park: The Keney Park Sustainability Project (KPSP), the Ebony Horsewomen Equestrian Center, Keney Park Golf Course, and the Friends of Keney Park at the Pond House have come together and created big plans for this year.

KPSP is now part of the Urban Ecology Wellness Center, which will provide wellness and urban ecology

services by reconnecting people to the healing power of nature. They plan to serve as a referral source for community partners; Ebony Horsewomen, the Hartford Cricket League, the Keney Park Golf Course, the North End Little League, the Swift Factory project, and the Friends of Keney Park. Wildlife education, group medical visits, yoga, Pilates, Qi Gong, martial arts, hiking, biking, sound healing, meditation, massage, and deep breathing are some programs being offered. In addition, they also plan therapeutic programming offerings, including equine therapy, forest therapy, horticulture therapy, physical therapy, and weaving therapy.

The Ebony Horsewomen Equestrian Center will be offering youth summer camps. Boys and girls ages 5 -16 can attend a weeklong camp during one of the eight sessions that run from June 21st-August

12th; income-based financial is available. These camps will include horseback riding lessons, fitness classes, and gardening classes. The groups are broken down by age 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, and 14-16. And a year-long program on Sundays includes a Junior Mounted Patrol with a mentoring component, and riding lessons are available for children age 7 and up, open to both individuals and groups; a monthly membership fee applies. These make great birthday presents and a great idea for something different to do on a date!

This is the year that the management of Hartford’s two public golf courses—Keney and Goodwin—is transferred to the City. For the past couple of years, the PGA has been assisting with its management. William Rosenblum of the city’s DPW is the new golf course manager, and is a longtime PGA member.

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# Politically Speaking

A Fresh Look at Issues Facing our Region & State

BY MIKE MCGARRY

## Pot Or Not?

First question: why do we call it dope? (Note: we’re using the old definition of “dope” as meaning dumb, rather than the modern definition meaning good or great.)

We’ve heard it from all sides of the issue of legal marijuana and have come to our own personal conclusion that the jury is still out as to the wisdom of legalizing another mind-affecting, dangerous product.

Adding another substance to the list of legal killers: cigarettes, booze, dangerous prescription drugs (OxyContin, Percocet, etc.), automobiles, air pollution...may not make much sense without a real balance of information that seems to be lacking, or ignored.

For example, are reports of increased use of pot by children in states with legalization important to the argument? Some say kids will get it anyhow, but certainly equalizing pot (harmful, of course, to developing brains if overused) and cigarettes will, for sure, make this a factor. 21-year-olds have 19-year-old friends and so on down the line and fake IDs are easy to make on a computer.

Now, is the evidence in on the so-called economic argument? We now rely on a variety of “sin taxes,” such as cigarettes, alcohol and gambling. They keep going up, but have other taxes gone down? State Representative Matt Ritter, of all people, dis-

misses the potential tax revenue that would come from legalizing pot, citing instead its wide-spread use and availability as reasons why he may approve legalization.

Asking various consumers of marijuana about government-approved products versus the black market, most say they’ll stick with their current dealer or don’t mind a quick trip north. Taxes (the big excuse) and regulations will keep dealers in business with less consequences if they are caught. Of course, they will probably undercut, in price and content, the legal stuff.

The toughest anti-pot argument for the pro-pot legislators to gloss over is the missing tests for those who smoke and then drive. Doctors say the effects last for hours, even days, and yes, it is dope.

Another issue is, who wants a pot store moving in next door? We have seen reports from other states of whole neighborhoods affected in negative ways by the opening of a pot store there. Already, some of our neighborhoods have more liquor stores and lottery outlets than legitimate stores. Will it benefit them to have a store selling pot?

So, doctors are firmly against legalization, church leaders see the down side especially in poor neighborhoods (Rev. Brooks, “This

Continued on page 7



# Letters to the Editor

## OK Boomers: It’s Our Job to Save the Earth!

Forget about relaxing into our retirement; we’ve got work to do! Recently, young people at Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford spoke out on the environment. They were joined by 17 year old University of Connecticut Junior, Sena Wazer. She is co-director of Sunrise Connecticut, a hub of the national Sunrise Movement: a youth led movement fighting to stop climate change. Sena gave an excellent powerpoint presentation on climate action in Connecticut. She was followed by four high school youth expressing their environmental concerns and sharing their work as “Eco Kids”; reducing plastic pollution, using bikes for transportation and raising funds to feed hungry neighbors. The adults listening were duly impressed, offering feedback such as “Young people give us so much hope!”

I remember what Greta Thunberg, the 18 year old Swedish environmental activist said about hope, as she spoke to the United Nations in 2019. “I shouldn’t be up here. I should be in school on the other side of the Ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope...Instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then and only then, hope will come.”

Younger generations are busy making a living, raising their families, or learning in school.

Many of us retirees have the time, the resources, and the connections to speed our conversion to renewable sources of energy. The Climate Clock in NYC says we have less than 7 years to achieve zero carbon emissions to keep our Earth inhabitable.

Zero emissions in less than seven years! We have to take action now! This is what we can do to prevent climate catastrophe: Educate ourselves about the climate crisis. We need to know the facts to act effectively. Access articles on the environment. Share with your friends and family. Research and find out how your town is planning to respond, and get involved.

Advocate for the environment. There are a slew of good Bills the Environment Committee just passed in our State Legislature. Read about them, contact your State Representative and Senator and tell them to vote “yes” on the ones you approve. Become a member of the Sierra Club, People’s Action for Clean Energy (PACE), CT League of Conservation

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# THE HARTFORD NEWS

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COVID-19 Vaccinations Sites in Hartford

Continued from page 1

Boulevard, 11:30 AM – 6:30 PM; **Xfinity Theatre**, 61 Savitt Way, 11:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Thursday

Parker Memorial Community Center, 2621

Main Street, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM; Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, 9 AM – 4 PM; **Xfinity Theatre**, 61 Savitt Way, 9 AM – 4 PM

Friday

**Parker Memorial Community Center**, 2621 Main Street, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM;

**Convention Center**, 100 Columbus Boulevard, 9 AM – 4 PM; **Xfinity Theatre**, 61 Savitt Way, 9 AM – 4 PM

Saturday

**Convention Center**, 100 Columbus Boulevard, 9 AM – 4 PM; **Xfinity Theatre**, 61 Savitt Way, 9 AM – 4 PM

Sunday

**Convention Center**, 100 Columbus Boulevard, 9 AM – 4 PM; **Xfinity Theatre**, 61 Savitt Way, 9 AM – 4 PM

Hartford residents who require transportation to a vaccine site should call 311 or (860) 757-9311.

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Monday, May 3, 2021

OPEN LETTER TO:  
The Honorable Mayor Luke Bronin

City Hall 550 Main Street, Room 200, Hartford, Connecticut 06103, Luke.Bronin@Hartford.gov

Mayor Luke Bronin,

The Greater Hartford African American Alliance (The Alliance) is writing to call your attention to the horrific misconduct of an on-duty white police sergeant who assaulted a black civilian woman while she was in the custody and care of the City of Hartford, and we demand immediate redress. There is no longer trust, legitimacy, or confidence in the ability of the Hartford Police Department (HPD) to police itself. Misconduct appears to be the order of the day. The announced outcomes of recent disciplinary actions of HPD personnel involved with the “Dead Pool” appear not to be factual, transparent, nor appropriate for the nature of the offenses committed; equally alarming are the unannounced outcomes for the personnel involved from the Office of the State’s Attorney. Systemic inaction is complicit with prejudiced biases, destroys social connectivity, decreases community resistance to crime and has eroded the public’s trust in the local justice system. We insist that an independent federal entity, unaffiliated with the City of Hartford or the State of CT, perform a comprehensive investigation and prosecution of the police sergeant. Because building trust and legitimacy on both sides of the police-citizen divide is the foundational principle guiding relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve, oversight by the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) of the Hartford Police Department and the Office of the State’s Attorney is warranted to avert further erosion of the public’s trust.

The Alliance supports the “Statement from Greater Hartford NAACP Regarding the Assault of an AfricanAmerican Woman by Hartford Police Officer” released to the press on April 27, 2021, calling for the immediate termination of the police sergeant, a person in a supervisory position within HPD.

It is evident HPD has lost its credibility within the community with ongoing inappropriate behavior, and within its ranks, as officers continue to leave the department in droves. Recent media highlight incidents which illustrate the lack of ethics, morals and values, and inconsistent levels of discipline.

Chief Jason Thody’s lack of integrity, personal conduct; and failure to establish a culture of transparency, fairness and equal opportunity; raise questions about his values and ability to lead this Department. Jason Thody’s ongoing violation of the civil rights of sworn personnel under his command, and his incidents of poor judgment, demonstrate a lack of social and emotional intelligence.

There is a confirmed report in 2010 which indicates Thody, while he served at the rank of Lieutenant, got into a barroom incident while off-duty, and he was later disciplined and subsequently demoted “for conduct unbecoming an employee, and for knowingly and willfully making a false entry in any Department or other official report or record”. A citizen reported in May 2020 that Thody, while he served as Police Chief, was erratically driving a City of Hartford police vehicle, struck a guardrail, caused property damage and evaded the scene; claiming he was on the way to a Black Lives Matter event (a peaceful protest in response to the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer), which he never attended.

Sound decision making is the foundation and an essential characteristic of effective leadership; which was not on display when Chief Thody allocated more than one million dollars for administrative vehicles while leaving the HPD fleet for patrol officers in disrepair. This decision negatively impacts HPD’s ability to respond to calls for service in a safe and timely manner, which jeopardizes the community at large.

Jason Thody is the defendant in multiple unresolved lawsuits concerning civil rights and discrimination violations, including his refusal to act in a sexual harassment complaint filed by a member of HPD. Not only that, there are also multiple active complaints filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) against Jason Thody in his

role as the Assistant Chief responsible for Internal Affairs, prior to his appointment as Chief of Police. These CHRO complaints involve disparate treatment asserting the practice and use of vindictive and retaliatory investigations (against Black, Latino, female and LGBTQ+ members of the department, including persecuting their allies) which have served to systematically block the advancement of officers of color and protected classes. Chief Thody’s actions / inactions undermine the tenets of procedural justice. He has repeatedly shown his indifference to the plight of and ability to effectively serve a community of color, and he has failed to create a sustainable environment to recruit, retain and promote a diverse cadre of police personnel.

The Alliance embraces the theories of community policing and the belief its success depends on promoting organizational strategies supportive of the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, and hosted a Virtual Town Hall featuring HPD Chief Jason Thody, as the keynote on the evening of Thursday, October 22, 2020, to discuss public safety. During this opportunity, Thody did very little to forge mutual trust and cooperation as his statements were less than truthful and evasive when asked about his operational and administrative plans, which provided further proof he lacks the guardian mindset required to build public trust and legitimacy.

Disingenuously, when campaigning for the permanent position as Chief, Jason Thody committed to assembling a diverse command staff, which would reflect the demographics of the City of Hartford and comply with the Cintron v. Vaughn Federal Consent Decree and CT General Statute 7-291A. To date, he has not promoted any person of color or any other protected class member to a command position from within HPD.

In September 2020, rather than using the historical practice of extending an active promotional list for a year, at no cost to the City, Chief Thody elected to discard the promotional list, which contained two females and a black male, all with graduate degrees and substantial years of service, who could have been promoted. Then in April 2021, less than seven months later, exams have been announced for Lieutenants and Captains to be held in July 2021, at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars to the City, while we are actively negotiating budgets and allocation of resources to meet the City’s needs. Discarding the promotional list was neither in compliance with the federal consent decree nor was it an “efficient allocation of City resources”, as is the goal of the FY2022 City of Hartford Budget. Moreover, better use of these funds could have been towards the training and deployment of non-law enforcement responders to non-violent calls for service or to upgrade the fleet of police vehicles for the patrol staff.

Hartford is but a heartbeat away from being featured in the headlines of the national news! Courageous action and intentionality are required to own and address problems in the Hartford Police Department BEFORE matters get out of control. Punching an unarmed woman in custody, in the presence of subordinate personnel, on camera, is the canary in the mine! We find it curious that this incident was only brought to the Office of the State’s Attorney for investigation after the story was published by a local reporter, over two and a half weeks after the incident, which was neither “proactive or quick”.

It is also disturbing that, in defiance of the new Police Accountability Bill Public Act 20-1, the video was not released within 96 hours of the incident. Additionally, the entire unedited video has yet to be released which speaks to the lack of transparency. There are reports of additional misconduct by this same police sergeant after the initial assault.

The community of Hartford expects and deserves racial reconciliation, and the Alliance will not tolerate the continued mistreatment of people of color and members of protected classes, external or internal to HPD. Beginning in May 2021, we are aware that interviews will be conducted for the position of sergeant, and we expect those vacancies to be filled free of any discriminatory practices and by diverse personnel

who reflect the community.

Therefore, in addition to the NAACP’s demand for the immediate termination of the police sergeant, the Alliance is also demanding that Chief Jason Thody be immediately relieved of his duties as Police Chief of the City of Hartford. The restoration to build public trust and legitimacy will not occur with Jason Thody at the helm. Based on Thody’s history of ignoring federal and state law, he should be prohibited from independently making any further promotions or appointments. To truly change the culture of the HPD, procedural justice must be the guiding principle for internal and external policies and practices; and the community must also have the ability to verify a credible system of accountability, which currently only exists on paper, and must start with competent, ethical and trustworthy leadership.

Without action by our “Strong Mayor”, the Alliance will be forced to refer these matters to higher authorities. We look forward to your confirmation of receipt and advisement.

Respectfully,  
J. Stan McCauley, President  
Greater Hartford African American Alliance  
GHAfricanAmericanAlliance@gmail.com

*The Greater Hartford African American Alliance (The Alliance) is an unincorporated, nonpartisan alliance of individuals and organizations joined together to share information, design strategies, and advocate for actions that benefit African American communities within Greater Hartford, Connecticut. We exist to enhance the economic, educational, health, environmental, spiritual, social and cultural experiences of African Americans within the Greater Hartford region. We provide a forum for open dialogue regarding current issues and events of interest to identify key priorities, to establish community consensus and to set an agenda toward collective action.*

MEDIA REFERENCES:

Police Say Officer Violated Code Of Conduct - Courant Community, May 28, 2010 - Hartford Courant. <https://www.courant.com/community/hartford/hc-xpm-2010-05-28-hc-hartford-investigation0528-20100528-story.html>

After another round of scrutiny, Hartford city council recommends confirmation of Interim Police Chief Jason Thody. February 4, 2020 By Rebecca Lurye Hartford Courant <https://www.courant.com/community/hartford/hc-news-hartford-thody-montanez-meeting-20200205-g4yvfsjbrqrd4xdgjp5aw7vastory.html?outputType=amp>

Resolution Calls for the Suspension of Hartford Police Chief, Published July 12, 2020 - NBC Connecticut <https://www.nbc-connecticut.com/news/local/resolution-calls-for-the-suspension-of-hartford-police-chief/2301263/?amp>

Hartford Police Chief Disciplined After Crash in Department-Issued Vehicle, Published July 13, 2020 - NBC Connecticut. Hartford Police Chief Jason Thody was involved in an accident in his department-issued vehicle on Route 154 in Chester in May. <https://www.nbc-connecticut.com/news/local/hartford-police-chief-disciplined-after-crash-in-department-issued-vehicle/2301631/?amp>. <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/6987976/2020-07-13-Thody-Discipline-Letter.pdf>

Hartford detective demoted, suspended for suggesting bet on first homicide of 2021, Dec. 8, 2020 By Minyvonne Burke - NBC News. The Hartford police chief said the text “represents an appalling lack of judgment” and “an extreme insensitivity toward our community.” <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna1250358>

Hartford police chief who evaded responsibility in May accident suspends officer for 120 days for joking text message. Editorial Posted by: Pat Droney | December 7, 2020 - Law Enforcement Today. <https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/hartford-chief-who-evaded-accident-suspends-detective-over-text-message/>

Hartford police chief says use of force chosen by officer ‘doesn’t conform to policy’, April 28, 2021 - Fox61 Staff. Hartford Police Sergeant James Guzie is accused of use of force against a woman who was being booked at the time. <https://www.fox61.com/article/news/crime/hartford-police-chief-jason-thody-discusses-the-recent-arrest-of-officer/520-6dc074fd-8556-45b9-b17c-a5f9e6bba08>

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## Supporters of Old North Cemetery Seek to Get Site’s Revitalization Back on Track

For many years in the 19th century, Old North Cemetery was Hartford’s premier final resting place. Located off Main Street at the intersection of Mather Street, Old North was established in 1807 and now covers 17 acres. Members of some of Hartford’s most distinguished families – such as the Bushnells, the Hookers and the Olmsteds – are buried here. You’ll also find the grave of Alice Cogswell, the first student at what is now the American School for the Deaf and the “little girl in the big hands” whose famous statue stands at the intersection of Farmington and Asylum Avenues. But Old North is also highly diverse, a rarity for a cemetery that was most active in the 19th century. Whites and Blacks, Jews,

years on restoring and promoting the cemetery. For over ten years, he and Barrow have led a memorial service at Old North honoring the Black Civil War veterans buried there. This year, the service will be held on Saturday June 19 and will be dedicated to veterans of all wars. It will start at 10:30 am at the American Legion Hall, 2121 Main Street, followed by a procession to the cemetery led by a color guard. Fothergill is also working to precisely locate the resting places of the approximately 9,000 people who are buried at Old North. Many graves are marked but many are not. For several years, Fothergill worked with student interns from Hartford Communities That



Supporters of the revitalization of Old North Cemetery (J. Stan McCauley, Michael Fothergill, William Hosley, Charles Barrow, Stuart Danforth, former Mayor Eddie Perez and Stephan Williams) gathered at the cemetery last Thursday to discuss future plans. (Hart photo)

Catholics and Protestants are buried here. It’s also the final resting place of several Black soldiers who served in the Civil War, a fact which led to it being placed on the Connecticut Freedom Trail. But in the latter half of the 20th century, the cemetery had fallen victim to neglect. Even a neighboring church complained about the grass not being cut. The effort to restore Old North Cemetery began when several long-time residents of the Clay Hill neighborhood, led by Elizabeth Jean Frederick, established the Frederick-Willis Memorial Fund. When Elizabeth passed away, the cause was taken up by her son, Charles Barrow, in 1985. Through Barrow’s efforts, the cause to renovate, maintain and promote Old North Cemetery was able to attract several prominent supporters. Famed local historian William Hosley has led many public tours of the cemetery. Michael Fothergill of the Ha Rambee Historical Society and the Friends of Old North Cemetery has also worked for many

Care (HCTC). A database was created with the names of those buried and where they are in the cemetery. But to plot out the location on the ground requires measuring distances based on reference points. Fothergill and the students were well into the project when funding for it ran out. At a meeting of the Friends of Old North last Thursday, Fothergill said the next step in the project should be completing the process of locating the graves and then placing informational markers at the plots without headstones. and those whose gravestones have become illegible. “This is the history of our city, our community and it has to be preserved or else it could be lost forever,” he said. Fothergill and Barrow hope to one day make Old North a center for historical research and record keeping for Hartford’s North End. “We want people to recognize Old North as the “Black Pearl of New England,”” Barrow said. To find out how you can be a part of the revitalization of Old North Cemetery, call Michael Fothergill at 860-881-7829.

### Letter to the Editor

Continued from page 2

Voters, Save the Sound, 350CT, Food and Water Watch, or one of the many local environmental groups working for sustainable change. Join the climate solutions movement! Give what we can financially. Environmental Action, NRDC, World Wildlife Fund, Rainforest Alliance, Friends of the Earth, Nature Conservancy, Interfaith Power and Light, Sunrise Movement; just some of the many groups working valiantly to avoid mass extinction. When you think about the inheritance you want to give your children, consider leaving them a livable world. Transform our yards. Change our lawns into a habitat for bees and butterflies, birds and wildlife. Plant native species and pollinator friendly bushes and flowers. Go organic and compost; abolish all pesticides, weed killers and artificial fertilizers. Work with our neighborhoods on “green” projects: Plant native trees, organize clean ups, create community vegetable and pollinator gar-

dens. Knox Inc. in Hartford can help us organize. Become energy efficient, go solar, use heat pumps, drive an Electric Car and advocate for Clean Mass Transportation; We need to phase out of burning fossil fuels and transfer to renewable sources of energy, now! Call on our Higher Power: All religions honor the sacredness of Creation. Harness your faith community to join in our efforts to avert a climate disaster. Yes, it’s work. However, I promise you will learn a lot, meet inspiring people, and have fun along the way. A sense of purpose is what makes life worth living, and what greater purpose could there be than saving life on Earth!

Lynn Johnson is a 72 year old climate activist, Board member of the Interreligious Eco Justice Network (irejn.org) and Chair of the Green Committee of the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association (AHNA), City of Hartford.



# SONS & MOTHERS

For this mom, it's about a moment, not a day

COMMENTARY BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

Like most kids, I was very observant—and analytic—when it came to family dynamics. One of the standout memories revolves around Mother’s Day. I have two older brothers and love them both dearly, but their personalities were very different. The eldest was the most responsible—a straight arrow who always did the right thing. The other one was a player—a rascal, a smooth talker, a clever junior con man who didn’t follow the rules. Didn’t come home until hours after he was supposed to, gambled away his watch and his transistor radio shooting foul shots at the school rec center, “forgot” to show up to do his Hartford Times paper route, sticking dad with the chore when he got home from work. He was, in a word, irresponsible. My parents were frustrated. Ah, but on Mother’s Day he was the one who presented mom with a \$1.00 satin and lace perfumed card (big money back in the ‘50s) containing a handwritten poem praising her as an angel on earth and extolling her virtues. She invariably teared up every time, and his “record” was erased. He continued his errant ways. I watched all this with a jaundiced eye from the age of 8 on, and it stuck with me.

As the single mother of two sons, I vowed that my boys were not going to go the way of their uncle. Other single mothers will get it: You have to be good cop-bad cop, loving and

nurturing them but also holding their feet to the fire and holding them accountable for their actions. Soft and tough in equal measure—Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde. It wasn’t easy. But with each of them there were moments that stood out during their growing-up years that brought me to the same tears as Mom’s card did for her. When the eldest was 12, I came home from work one day where he awaited me in the kitchen. With barely contained excitement he threw open the refrigerator door like an adolescent Monty Hall on “Let’s Make a Deal” to reveal a sirloin steak, mushrooms, a dozen eggs, bacon, a loaf of bread, a pound of butter, a half-gallon of milk, a carton of orange juice, and a chocolate cake. He was so proud; I was so stunned. How did this happen? Well, he had saved some money and had walked nearly two miles each way to a supermarket. My parents lived a few blocks away on the same street as us, and Dad had spotted him walking home. The paper grocery bags had broken and there was his grandson clutching the ripped ones to his chest, with several of the items tucked under each arm and the bread held between his teeth. “Poppy” called to him, and drove him the rest of the way home.

One July when the younger one was 9, he flew alone to Miami to

Continued on page 7

# Off the Streets

Two women grateful for a hand up from HPD Officer Jim Barrett speak candidly about their lives

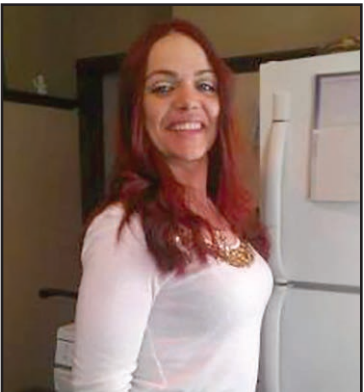
BY CLAIRE HIBBS-CUSSON



Lisa and Officer Barrett at the Connecticut Police Academy.

Lisa, once homeless for four years, met Officer Barrett in 2013. Forever grateful for Officer Barrett’s outreach, Lisa considers him “...more than a cop. I don’t see that badge anymore. He is like a big brother to me. I see a human being; a person. Police officers get a bad rap, and it’s not all police officers that are bad. Like Officer Barrett, there’s others out there who will help you out. When you’re down and out, he shows that he cares. He gives advice when you need it. He’s very humble, and he doesn’t judge people. He believes in me, and he believes in people. I survived, and I have Officer Barrett to thank for this. He always pushed me and believed in me. He said not to doubt myself, but

to believe in myself. He gives a lot of attention. He gives a good ear.” (COVID-19 Update: Lisa became unemployed after the pandemic forced the Parkville Market to close.)



Dawn

Dawn, 44, became homeless at the age of 16. She started prostituting herself and using drugs, “...because I had to learn how to stay awake, because the people out there were very dangerous and I was very young.” After two years on the streets of Hartford, Dawn met Officer Barrett through a friend she ‘camped’ with. “My friend introduced me to him, and, like, I was really amazed when . . . I saw all these pictures of all these people that Officer Barrett did help before I met him. From ceiling to floor it was covered in nothing but photographs

of people he has helped that are success stories, and some that have passed away from drug overdoses. “Over a number of years, in and out of shelters and programs, Dawn knew that whenever her life took a downward turn, Officer Barrett was always there. In many cases, he actively went looking for her when he hadn’t seen her in a while. “Once, he found me at the riverfront and brought me to his office, and he gave me more clothes and cosmetics and food. Officer Barrett has never let me go. He told me he’d never throw me away, like so many other people have. “I was so tired of being on the street and so tired of being alone. I said to him one day, ‘Officer Barrett, I’m gonna die.’ And he said, ‘No you’re not. I’m not gonna let that happen.’ But I overdosed. And when he found out that I overdosed he took me to his office. He took pictures of me there, and said that one day these pictures are gonna be part of a success story. If it wasn’t for him I’d be dead. I know I would not be around today walking the earth.”

Claire Hibbs-Cusson is a student at Central Connecticut State University and is a staff writer for Blue Muse, the school’s literary magazine, where this story was first published.

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## El Mes De La Radio

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## Más de la mitad de población de mayor de 18 años están completamente vacunas en CT

El gobernador dijo que Connecticut es el primer estado del país con más de la mitad de la población de 18 años o más completamente vacunada.

Las hospitalizaciones por COVID-19 en el estado son las más bajas en aproximadamente seis meses, según el gobernador Ned Lamont. Con una disminución de 41 hospitalizaciones en los últimos tres días, ahora hay 342.

La tasa de prueba positiva es del 1,78%. El promedio móvil de 7 días está por debajo del 2%, que es el más bajo en casi seis meses, según funcionarios estatales.

Hay 15 muertes más relacionadas con el virus. El número de muertos en el estado es ahora de 8.112.

Lamont dijo que las tendencias diarias del coronavirus en el estado son "muy positivas", con una disminución de las hospitalizaciones y tasas de pruebas positivas.

Un total del 69% de los residentes de Connecticut ya ha recibido su primera dosis de la vacuna. Casi 1,4 millones de residentes están completamente vacunados y se han administrado aproximadamente 1,9 millones de primeras dosis, según funcionarios estatales. By Iris Rodriguez



## Descanse en Paz

*Sr. Pablo de Jesús Colon hijo, oriundo de la Réplica Dominicana ,un orgullo Dominicano. Dedicó toda su vida a los medios de comunicación, uno de los primeros locutores que llegó a Hartford C.T en la era de Los 60 . En el 1968 fue director de programación de WLVH la grande de C.T primera emisora Hispana .Trabajo por largos años ganándose el respeto y el cariño de la comunidad hispana. Fue una persona que siempre informaba a través los medios . Siempre lo recordaremos con orgullo .Descanse en Paz el maestro de la locución. By Iris Rodriguez*

## El gobernador propone visitas gratuitas a los museos para los niños de CT este verano

El plan permitiría a todos los niños de Connecticut menores de 18 años y un adulto acompañante visitar cualquiera de los museos participantes del estado de forma gratuita entre el 1 de julio y el 6 de septiembre. Gobernador Ned Lamont incluyó el plan en su propuesta a la

Asamblea General de Connecticut para la asignación de la porción estatal de los fondos federales de recuperación de COVID-19 provenientes de la Ley del Plan de Rescate Estadounidense.Un comunicado de la oficina del gobernador dijo que el plan requeriría una inversión de \$ 15 millones de los fondos federales de recuperación del estado para los museos participantes. La autorización debería provenir de la legislatura estatal.

Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport Museum, Beardsley Zoo, Connecticut Science Center y Maritime Aquarium en Norwalk han expresado interés en participar, según la oficina del gobernador, y todos los museos del estado serán invitados a participar.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Karen Small-Rodgers (20-00273)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated April 27, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Audley Willocks  
c/o Michael A Peck  
Peck & Peck  
200 Scarborough Street  
Hartford, CT 06105

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Jane M. Bronk (21-00331)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated April 5, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Judith A. Miller,  
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Andrea W. Barton  
1497 Manchester Road  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

### CRCOG

CRCOG is requesting proposals for Recruitment Agency Services. Visit [www.crcog.bonfirehub.com](http://www.crcog.bonfirehub.com) to view this opportunity.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Hazel Richardson, AKA Hazel Antoinette Richardson (21-00341)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated April 26, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas  
Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Ken Richardson  
c/o John Q Gale  
John Q. Gale LLC  
363 Main Street, 4th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106



**La Diferente Radio y Hartford newspapers saludamos a todas las madres del mundo.**

**Deseándole muchas felicidades en su día .**

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Esther C. Kleid, Late of Hartford (20-00259)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated May 3, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Judith A. Miller,  
Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:  
Evelyn Kleid  
89 Penn Drive  
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Mike McGarry

**Continued from page 2**

notion of legalized pot doesn’t make sense,” *Hartford Courant*, May 4). And those who see the dangers of people driving while high, our chiefs of police, make the strongest objection: based on reports from legalized states, yes, it is dope.

Our unsolicited advice to the state

Keney Park

**Continued from page 2**

Last year the golf courses were very successful, and the 2021 season looks to be another good one. Each month so far they’ve seen excellent statistics in terms of the number of rounds played. Bill said his challenge will be to retain those new players. If you want to play, it isn’t something that you just decide on the spur of the moment, you have to plan ahead. MPI has been contracted to provide golf lessons, and will also be creating youth camps. He is going to try to get advertising added to see if

**Ranger Intern Opportunity**

Coltsville NHP is hiring a Student Conservation Association Intern for its Coltsville team to help with community outreach, digital media, interpretation, events, and building awareness of the new park. For more information, go to, <https://www.nps.gov/colt/> and click on "Get Involved" for more information.

legislature is to pass on any drastic moves, such as legalization, until all the facts are in and a real, in-person, debate examines all the potential outcomes and dangers. The governor, legislative leadership and the media should have a public meeting with the critics and hear them out in full.

funds can be raised to provide additional golf camps for kids. Roseblum is excited that the new electric carts will have GPS, and also wants to remind people that there is a resident discount on greens fees. His tip of the day was that between 1 – 3 pm Monday-Thursday you can get on the course pretty easily. Another great tip is that you can chip and putt for free as well as use the driving range where a bucket of balls goes for \$10. It’s great fun and good exercise whether solo or with friends.

The Friends of Keney Park are partnering with other organizations to provide some fun activities for all ages. The Recreation Division will be holding a Block Party on May 8th, and on Saturday, May 22nd, BiCiCo has organized “Let’s Ride to Keney Park” from 8:30-10:30 a.m. “Karaoke in the Park” with the Recreation Division will be held outside the Keney Pond House on Tuesdays July 13th, 20th, and 27th from 4:30-8:30 pm.

More programming is forthcoming, so stay tuned.

News Briefs

**Continued from page 1**

(MARG) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 13, at 6 pm in the lower level of Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Avenue, Hartford. Brian Matthews from the City of Hartford Housing Department will be the main speaker. Those attending the meeting must wear masks and practice social distancing. For more information, call Hyacinth Yennie at 860-296-5543.

Really Really Free Market May 15

The Free Center, 460 New Britain Avenue (former Goodwin Library), Hartford, will host the “Really, Really Free Market” on Saturday, May 15, from 4 PM – 7 PM (rain date: May 16). The market is a community event where the basic idea is "Give What You Have, Take What You Need." Masks will be required for safety, and will be provided if needed. Want to volunteer or help organize? Have questions? Email to [htfdfrm@gmail.com](mailto:htfdfrm@gmail.com).

Free West End Concert May 16

“Porch Music V Live,” a free concert hosted by artist, musician and longtime Hartford resident Carlos Hernandez Chavez will be held on Sunday, May 16, from 12-5 pm at 76 Oxford Street in Hartford's West End. Carlos will be joined throughout the after-

noon by some of the area’s most talented musicians. Bring a chair, a blanket, some eats and especially, friends! Social distancing will be in place and face masks should be worn. The event is free. It will be canceled in case of heavy rain.

Job Fair at Parkville Market May 17

Parkville Market and the Hartford Chamber of Commerce will host a Job Fair at the Market, 1400 Park Street, Hartford, from 11am - 2 pm

Dons & Mothers

**Continued from page 2**

meet up with his father who was already there and visit his paternal grandparents. I knew he’d be well cared for and treated to everything, but I also sent him off with \$40—a little “mad money” of his own. He had a great time, and arrived home the day after my birthday. After he had happily related everything he’d done down there in great detail, he pulled out a small wrapped box, and beaming, handed it to me; “Happy Birthday, Mom!” Inside was a gold-plated ring with a red stone in the middle surrounded by cubic zirconia “diamonds”. I oohed and aahed, over the gift and asked about its purchase. That’s when he told me he’d spent the \$40 on it. “But Mom’, he said, “I have to tell you something.” He

pm on Monday, May 17.

**KNOX Greenhouse Volunteers Needed!**

KNOX, Inc. needs volunteers to help prepare the planters it will soon be installing throughout the city. The work will be done at the KNOX greenhouses, 75 Laurel Street on Thursday, May 13, 12 - 3 pm, Friday May 14, 12 - 3 pm and Saturday, May 15, 9am - 1pm. To register or for more details, please contact Jayson Hughes, [jaysonh@knoxhartford.org](mailto:jaysonh@knoxhartford.org).

looked worried, and I was expecting to hear some bad news. He leaned in closer. “I don’t think that’s a real ruby.” The gold plate has worn off the band, but the pure gold of that moment of his selflessness still brings a tear.

I don’t need cards, flowers, or Mother’s Day brunches from my kids—now grown men in their 30s and 40s. These moments and others are my most precious and lasting gifts. But the best gift of all is that they’re both wonderful fathers—caring, loving, patient nurturers and teachers whose children know their dads will always be there for them. And if I had something to do with that, what mother could ask for anything more?

**Happy Mother’s Day!**

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**Electricians Needed**

Sunderland Electric is looking for Electricians. Be able to install power supply wiring and conduit, read blueprints, running MC cable, installing transformers, switchgear and panels. Please email resume to [ap@sunderlandelectric.com](mailto:ap@sunderlandelectric.com).

**Plumbing Laborer/Apprentice**

FAD Mechanical is seeking someone eager and ready to learn the Plumbing trade working on new construction projects. M-F 7am to 3:30pm. \$15-\$18 based on experience. OSHA card and valid transportation required. Must be a Hartford resident. Email Resume: [admin@fadmechanical.com](mailto:admin@fadmechanical.com)

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**Super/ Handyman wanted for North End Buildings**

Experienced and reliable super/handyman wanted to oversee multiple 6 family apartment buildings on the North End. Must be experienced with tenant apartment repairs, able to deal with tenants, must have own transportation and reliable phone contact. Immediate. References required. Call (860) 882 3650. Leave message for owner.

**Employment**

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**Room For Rent**

Rooms for rent in Hartford's West End. Utilities included. \$150 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

**For Rent**

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**22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford**

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